

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Approach to Sulina

1. [redacted] while sailing toward Cape George, a white plastic balloon was seen floating in the sea at 4343N-3014E. The balloon was picked up and examined. It was inflated and the inflation tube or aperture was tied; its dimensions were about three meters long by 2.5 meters wide. A report giving the time, date and location at which the balloon was found was submitted with the balloon to the inspection committee at Sulina. Three more balloons were seen en route to Sulina, but they were not picked up. 25X1
2. On the return voyage on 2 May 1955, another balloon was seen off Cape Kaliakra at 4304N-2926E. [redacted] 25X1
3. From Eregli the ship sailed a course in accordance with recommendations in the North European and Mediterranean Routing Instructions (NEMEDRI) as far as the mouth of the Sulina. There was no evidence of the existence of mines along the course, no signal poles and no buoys. In the course of conversation, the pilot said that there were no mine obstacles in the mouth of the Sulina. 25X1
4. The pilot's motorboat was ready and expecting the ship when it arrived at the mouth of the Sulina at 0805 hours [redacted] The pilot and a customs soldier boarded. The pilot stayed on board during the inspection at Galati and accompanied the ship as far as Galati. 25X1

The Danube - Sulina to Galati

5. Following the inspection at Sulina, the ship departed at 1500 hours of the same day. The ship was followed by a patrol boat. When it became dark,

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the ship anchored at the twenty-second mile and proceeded the following morning at 0500 hours.

6. At the sixty-first mile, six Soviet speedboats were seen proceeding downstream in column. They were about 30 meters in length and had no stacks. [redacted] One was red in color and the other five were a light gray.

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Galati Port Control and Facilities

7. After mooring at the pier in front of the Customs House, the ship was again subjected to inspection and control similar to that in Sulina. The authorities were particularly interested in making sure that there were no smuggled passengers.
8. [redacted] ship unloaded bran and loaded cement.

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9. Four tugboats were seen at the shipyard in the harbor of Galati. Two were under construction on the ways, while the other two had been launched and were having the superstructure built. Four other hulls, of which two had been launched, were under construction. These were identified as either mud barges or small tankers.

Civil Affairs and Activities

10. Luxury items such as nylon stockings, fountain pens, watches, nylon belts and underwear, and eye glasses are eagerly sought after by the local populace from foreign seamen. The prices paid at Galati are very high. Penicillin and new medicines used for rheumatism and tuberculosis are also desired.

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11. [redacted] ship departed Galati early on the morning [redacted] Two days earlier there were preparations for the May Day festival. The city was decorated with Rumanian and Soviet flags. All the buildings around the main square and along Populera Boulevard were painted white or whitewashed. Posters with large letters; large pictures of Marx, Lenin and Stalin; and other pictures of the same size of the "big nine" were put on government buildings. Young people, girls but seldom boys, from 17 to 25 years of age distributed May Day badges.

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